

JP356061043A

May 26, 1981

L3: 1 of 1

DETECTOR FOR FOCUS

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APPL NO: JP 54136444  
DATE FILED: Oct. 24, 1979  
INT-CL: G11B7/08  
ADDITIONAL-INT-CL: G02B7/04; G02B7/11

ABSTRACT:

PURPOSE: To simplify the constitution and to make small and light the device with less number of optical elements, by using a plurality of prisms consisting of plural refractive materials as optical path split prisms so that the incident and reflected light flux pass through the same optical elements.

CONSTITUTION: The light from a light source 21 is made to a parallel light flux at a collimator lens 22, and it is incident to plural prisms, e.g., a Rochon prism 23. This light is the P polarized light component being normal light to the Rochon prism 23, it passes through along the light axis O and is incident to the information track of a recording medium 26 via a 1/4 wave length plate 24 and an objective lens 25. The light reflected at it is converted for the direction of polarization from P into S component at the 1/4 wave length plate 24. Accordingly, it is refracted at the Ronchon prism 23 and incident with a slope to the light axis O of the collimator lens 22 to form an image of photospot at a location different from the location of the light source 21. A four-split photodetector 27 is located at this location to obtain a focus error signal.

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